

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 061810Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2529

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 5340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: SCHEEL VISIT TO MOSCOW - MBFR ASPECTS

REF: A) BONN 15983; B) MOSCOW 13845

VIENNA FOR US DEL MBFR

1. SUMMARY: FRG REP PROVIDED POLADS NOV 6 WITH RUN-DOWN
ON FONMIN SCHEEL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW WHICH LARGELY REPEATED
INFO REFTELS BUT INCLUDED SUMMARY OF SCHEEL-GROMYKO
DISCUSSION OF MBFR ISSUES. NOT SURPRISINGLY, GROMYKO TOOK
HARD LINE ON MOST POINTS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO FRG REP, SCHEEL OPENED DISCUSSION OF MBFR BY
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STRESSING DIFFICULTY AND COMPLEXITY OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH
SCHEEL SAID INDICATED NEED FOR PHASED APPROACH. SCHEEL
ALSO NOTED FRG OPPOSITION TO REDUCTIONS ZONE RESTRICTED
TO TWO GERMAN STATES, POINTED TO NEED FOR REDUCTIONS OF

INDIGENOUS FORCES DURING SECOND STAGE, AND SAID THAT "SUPER-POWERS" SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT DETERMINE COURSE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. SCHEEL ADVISED GROMYKO THAT IN FRG VIEW, MBFR SHOULD NOT LEAD TO DISSOLUTION OF EXISTING ALLIANCES, WHICH SHOULD CONTINUE BE BASIS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY IN POST-MBFR ENVIRONMENT.

3. IN REPLY, GROMYKO REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT RAPID AGREEMENTS IN VIENNA WERE NOT POSSIBLE. HE OBSERVED THAT PROCESS WAS IN EARLY STAGE AND ADDED THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT ENGAGED IN DETAILED BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR ISSUES WITH WESTERN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING US. GROMYKO STRESSED NEED TO OBSERVE CONCEPT OF "UNDIMINISHED SECURITY" IN ANY MBFR AGREEMENTS, WHICH HE SAID PRESUPPOSED THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCES. ACCORDING TO FRG REPORT, GROMYKO REFERRED TO CONCEPT OF "BALANCE" AS "NEGATIVE TERM" AND REJECTED IN PRINCIPLE POSSIBILITY THAT WARSAW PACT WOULD MAKE LARGER CUTS THAN WEST. SHOULD WEST INSIST ON ASSYMMETRICAL CUTS, GROMYKO SAID PROSPECTS FOR MBFR AGREEMENT WOULD BE "DIM". (COMMENT: FRG REPORT WAS UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER GROMYKO WAS RULING OUT ASYMMETRICAL PERCENTAGE OR ABSOLUTE CUTS, BUT FRG REP SAID HIS REPORT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT GROMYKO WAS REFERRING TO ASYMMETRICAL ABSOLUTE CUTS. END COMMENT) WITH REFERENCE TO POSSIBILITY THAT GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS MIGHT BE FACTORED INTO EQUATION, GROMYKO REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT USSR NEED GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE TO BALANCE IMPACT OF US BASES IN EUROPE. HE AGREED WITH FRG CONTENTION THAT REDUCTIONS ZONE SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO TWO GERMANIES. HE ALSO AGREED THAT INDIGENOUS FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED NOT NOTED THAT THE SEQUENCE OF STATIONED/INDIGENOUS REDUCTIONS REMAINED TO BE ESTABLISHED. MC AULIFFE

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